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MONTANA
APPLICATION
CHAPTER 2 OF TITLE I

SUBMITTED MAY 15, 1992

Augustus F. Hawkins - Robert T. Stafford
Elementary and Secondary School Improvement
Amendments of 1988
P.L. 100-297

July 1, 1992 - June 30, 1994

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On behalf of the state of Montana, I, the undersigned official of the state of Montana, Office of Public Instruction, hereby apply for participation in federal assistance in accordance with Section 1522 of Chapter 2 of Title I of the Augustus F. Hawkins - Robert T. Stafford School Improvement Amendments of 1988, P.L. 100-297.

I. DESIGNATION

Pursuant to Section 1522(a)(1), the Montana Office of Public Instruction is designated as the state agency responsible for the administration and supervision of programs assisted under Chapter 2.

II. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On May 8, 1989, Governor Stan Stephens appointed the original eight members of the state advisory committee, representing all the required interest groups. Attachment A lists the names of the current advisory committee members and the interest group(s) they represent. The advisory committee members met on May 16, 1992, to provide comment on the formula for the allocation of Chapter 2 funds to LEAs, and on the section of the state application which describes the planned use of Chapter 2 funds reserved for state agency use.

The advisory committee's role is to advise the Office of Public Instruction on the allocation among targeted programs of the 20 percent reserved for state use under Section 1521(a) of the act, including the planning, development, support, implementation, and evaluation of such state programs assisted under Chapter 2, and on the formula for allocation of funds to LEAs. Active and continuous consultation with the state educational agency (SEA) is achieved through a minimum of one meeting, and through other forms of communication as needed.

III. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS RESERVED FOR STATE USE

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) plans to use 20 percent of Montana's Chapter 2 allocation, in the final two years of the grant period, for state activities. The OPI proposes the following allocation of the 20 percent state funds to comply with the restrictions and requirements of P.L. 100-297:

25% Administration (maximum)
20% Effective Schools Programs (minimum)
55% Targeted Assistance Programs

Total 20% State Funds

CHAPTER 2 STATE PLAN FOR 20 PERCENT FUNDS

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. Administration

GOAL: The administration of Montana's Chapter 2 grant in an effective and efficient manner.

1. Program Management

OBJECTIVES:

a. The allocation of funds to local school districts.

b. Technical assistance to local districts on compliance with Chapter 2 laws and regulations.

c. Planning and supervision of funds of state Chapter 2 activities.

d. Assistance and support for activities of the state advisory committee.

e. Monitoring school districts for compliance with Chapter 2 laws and regulations.

f. Assessing the effectiveness of Chapter 2 programs through program reviews and annual report forms.

STAFF: Program Coordinator .50 FTE
Support Staff
Administrative Assistant .50 FTE
Data Researcher .20

2. Fiscal Management

OBJECTIVES:

a. Processing of Chapter 2 funds used by the state and local agencies.

b. Technical assistance to local school districts on fiscal responsibilities and procedures of the Chapter 2 program.

c. *Computer processing and programming assistance in the allocation of funds, management of budgets, and record keeping.*

STAFF: Accountant .75 FTE

B. *Effective Schools Program*

GOAL: Assist schools in implementing programs which promote the characteristics of effective schools as defined by research.

OBJECTIVES:

1. *Increase Office of Public Instruction staff awareness of the ESEA Chapter 2 Effective Schools State Plan and the elements of effective schools research.*

2. *Gather, evaluate and disseminate materials related to effective schools research and programs. Materials will be gathered at national and regional conferences and from publications. Information will be disseminated through office publications, state and regional conferences, and on-site visits to school districts.*

3. *Provide technical assistance concerning the implementation of effective school programs to school district staffs. Technical assistance will include on-site visits, telephone consultations, and presentations at regional and state conferences.*

4. *Fund school district ESEA Chapter 2 Effective Schools grants to assist with the local implementation of effective schools research. Implementation will focus on elements of effective schooling as identified by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (Effective Schooling Practices: A Research Synthesis. Portland, Oregon: Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 1984). The elements of effective schooling identified in the synthesis are organized into five groups of variables: 1) a clearly defined curriculum; 2) focused classroom instruction and management; 3) firm, consistent discipline; 4) close monitoring of student performance; and 5) strong instructional leadership.*

5. *Implement evaluation of effective schools programs. Evaluation activities will include participant assessment of conferences, technical assistance, and grant activities.*

STAFF: *Effective Schools Program Coordinator* *.20 FTE*

Support Staff *.20 FTE*

Ten Office of Public Instruction curriculum specialists and support staff (part-time assignments for all).

C. Targeted Assistance (TA)

GOAL: *To provide a continuing source of technical assistance for innovation and education improvement in five targeted assistance areas. The reason for selecting such programs is to target educational areas most in need of leadership and technical assistance at the state level. These programs respond, not only to the educational needs within Montana, but also to national educational priorities.*

TA1. Program for Students At Risk

OBJECTIVE:

Provide assistance for the development and improvement of programs for students at risk of failure or of dropping out of school.

STAFF: Guidance and Counseling Specialist .15 FTE

TA2. Acquisition and Distribution of Instructional Materials

OBJECTIVE:

Acquisition and distribution of instructional books and audiovisual materials for use in the school districts and by the Office of Public Instruction staff in providing technical assistance.

STAFF: *Library Media Specialist* *.15 FTE*
Reference Library Staff *.30 FTE*
AV Library Staff *.30 FTE*

TA3. Programs for Training and Professional Development of Educational Personnel

OBJECTIVES:

a. Sponsor and contribute to programs for the professional development of educational personnel.

b. Provide technical assistance to individual educators which enhances their professional development.

c. Gather and disseminate information on innovative teaching techniques and school management.

STAFF: All curriculum staff at the Office of Public Instruction contribute to professional development opportunities for Montana school personnel. Specialists charged to this targeted assistance area include the following:

Math Curriculum Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Science Curriculum Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Foreign Language Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Social Studies Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Reading Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Language Arts Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Elementary Education Specialist	*.20 FTE*
Assessment Specialist	*.20 FTE*

TA4. Programs in the Arts

OBJECTIVE:

Provide technical assistance to schools in the arts designed to enhance the personal excellence of students.

STAFF: Arts Specialist .20 FTE

TA5. Innovative Programs

OBJECTIVES:

a. Provide technical assistance to the development and improvement of programs for gifted and talented students.

b. Provide technical assistance to programs for youth

suicide prevention.

STAFF: Gifted and Talented Specialist .20 FTE

Guidance and Counseling
Specialist .15 FTE

IV. PUBLIC NOTICE AND DISSEMINATION

In May, 1992, the state advisory committee was given the opportunity to comment on the planned allocation of funds reserved for state use, and on the allocation formula for distribution of funds to LEAs. This state application reflects the results of that meeting. Public notice and dissemination in accordance with Section 1522(a) (2) and (3) were achieved through state newspapers, the offices of county superintendents, the state library, and the newspaper of the Office of Public Instruction, "Montana Schools." This application has been filed with our clearinghouse in the Lieutenant Governor's office.

V. ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF DATA

The Office of Public Instruction will annually submit data on the use of funds, the types of services furnished, and the students served under this chapter.

VI. EVALUATION

An evaluation was completed by the Office of Public Instruction in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education to meet the Fiscal Year 1992 evaluation requirement to report the effectiveness of the Chapter 2 program to Congress. The process included an opportunity for advisory committee comment, and public notice of availability of the results has been published.

VII. RECORD KEEPING

The Office of Public Instruction will keep such records and provide such information to the Secretary as may be required for fiscal audit and program evaluation.

VIII. DECISION MAKING

As in the past, the Office of Public Instruction will exercise no influence on the decision-making process of local education agencies as to the expenditures made pursuant to an application under Section 1531, apart from technical and advisory assistance and monitoring compliance with this chapter.

IX. LEA ALLOCATION FORMULA

Distribution Criteria

Enrollment and additional components for high-cost students, together with their recommended pupil weighting factors, are as follows:

Student Measure, N	Weight, W
Enrollment (N_1)	1.0 (W_1)
Low Income (N_2)	2.0 (W_2)
Sparsity (N_3)	0.5 (W_3)

The allocation for any LEA is:

$$\text{Allocation} = A*(W_1N_1+W_2N_2+W_3N_3)$$

where A is the dollar amount per weighted pupil adjusted to allocate all funds (the allocation plus carry-over) available for flow-through.

The factors in the formula are defined as follows:

A. Enrollment

Enrollment is based on the prior year October 1 count.

B. Low Income

Eligible LEAs are those having at least five percent low-income students who qualify for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) as reported by the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services for the prior year.

C. Sparsity

Eligible LEAs are those designated as rural by U. S. Census categories and whose total prior year enrollment, including private school students, is less than 60 in the high school grades and less than 120 in the elementary grades. The student measure for this factor is computed as the difference between actual enrollment in "rural" districts and 60 for high school grades or 120 for elementary grades.

(Note: "Prior year" refers to the year preceding the allocation year.)

Allocations for nonpublic schools choosing to receive Chapter 2 services will be the same per-pupil amount as the host district.

The percentage of the state grant proposed to be allocated on an adjusted basis is approximately 20 percent.

X. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

The chief state school officer assures the Secretary that there is compliance with the specific requirements of Chapter 2. This application is for a period of three fiscal years and shall be subject to amendment to reflect necessary changes.

XI. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

Except as provided in Section 298.21 of the ESEA Chapter 2 regulations, the Office of Public Instruction assures that either the combined fiscal effort per student or the aggregate expenditures within the state with respect to the provision of free public education for the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90 percent of such combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year.

XII. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The Office of Public Instruction assures that no more than 25 percent of the Chapter 2 funds reserved for state use will be used for administration of Chapter 2 programs.

_____	_____
Date	*Signature* *Nancy Keenan* *Superintendent of Public Instruction* *for the State of Montana*